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Botanische Zeitung, No. 19. W. Velten, On Electricity in Plants. No. 20. Ascheron, Phytographic notices. No. 21. Ascheron, On Malaguetta Pepper. No. 22. Areschoug, On certain Rubi. No. 23. De Borbás, Conspectus of doubtful species of *Dianthus*. No. 24. Philipi, On Sandal-Wood of Juan Fernandez. On *Primula pistiifolia*, Gris. No. 25. Reuther, On the development of the flower. No. 26. Continuation of the last. In the above numbers there are several interesting reports of scientific meetings which will be hereafter noticed.

ZOÖLOGY.

A TRUE "SNAKE STORY." — The article in the March number on "A Snake-Eating Snake" recalls to memory an incident which occurred to me last year, showing that such reptiles are found nearer home than Costa Rica. In walking through a cañon about two miles east of Oakland, Cal., one spring morning, I met with a fine specimen of the California milk-snake (*Lampropeltis Boylii*, figured in Pacific Railroad Report as *Coronella balleata*, x. 14, Plate V). Having disabled it by a blow across the back, I wrapped it in paper and put it in a bag, intending, when I sat down to rest, to skin it, and to examine the contents of its much-distended stomach. About noon I opened the paper and was not a little startled to find that my milk-snake, so strongly characterized by alternating belts of black and white, was apparently transformed into a garter-snake of about the same size, with longitudinal stripes.

The first impression was that I had got hold of one of the deceiving tribes of the "old serpent" himself, but recalling the scientific coolness with which Cuvier is said to have confounded him when under the disguise of horns and hoofs, I ventured to look closer, and found that the garter-snake must have been swallowed whole by the milk-snake, which, on recovering from the stunning blow I gave, had disgorged its prey, and then succeeded in crawling through a hole in the bag. All this would not have seemed so strange if the two snakes had not been so nearly of a size that I did not at first notice any difference. As I recollect, the garter-snake was over two feet long, but being damaged, and a common species, I did not preserve it. I had not captured any of the kind recently, nor any other snake except the milk-snake. — J. G. COOPER, M. D.

"THE BANK SWALLOW" AGAIN. — Regarding the instance in which Dr. Haymond observed a "bank swallow" carry building material into an auger hole, as communicated to the June number of the *NATURALIST* by Dr. Coues, it may be fairly questioned whether the species was not the rough-winged swallow (*Stelgioöpteryx serripennis*), which is much more common in many parts of the country, particularly in the Mississippi Valley, than the other species. The habits and appearance of the two birds are so similar that they are very often confounded, even by good and experienced observers; besides, it is well known that the rough-wing

often does build about bridges and in such situations as that described by Dr. Haymond. — R. RIDGEWAY.

THE GREEN SNAKE IN NEW MEXICO. — It may be interesting to mention an increase of geographical range for the common green snake (*Cyclophis vernalis*). It was found in 1874 at Abiquin, New Mexico, in the valley of the Chama, by Dr. O. Löew, and in 1875 by Lieut. W. L. Carpenter, U. S. A., in Moreno Valley, Northern New Mexico, and again at the head of Ponil Creek, Northern New Mexico. Lieutenant Carpenter also states that the species is by no means uncommon in Southern Colorado. — H. C. YARROW.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

NOTES ON THE STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM ARKANSAS, AT THE PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITION. — In the building erected by the State of Arkansas for the purpose of exhibiting the various resources of that commonwealth is a small but very beautiful series of stone implements, all of which, as I was there informed, were taken from various mounds in Garland, Montgomery, and Saline counties. While the various common forms of implements are all represented by excellent specimens, there is a noticeable preponderance of certain patterns which in other localities are less abundant than allied forms. For instance, the polished celts, of sizes suggesting the ax, rather than a skinning knife, are numerous represented, while but few specimens of the more common grooved ax are in the collection. Whether this preponderance of large celts, as compared with grooved axes, obtains throughout the territory from which these specimens were brought, I could not learn. Certainly, in the Eastern and Middle States the grooved axes are more abundant than celts of the same average size. The spear and arrow points are represented by a series which for beauty of material — they are all chipped from novaculite — and delicacy of workmanship far surpass any similar forms that I have seen. This perfection of the art of flint-chipping is alike in the spear-heads, six and eight inches in length, and the smallest of the arrow-points, scarcely more than half an inch long. The pestles are all cylindrical, and not with a flaring end, as is common to this form of implement in many localities. Of rude implements but few specimens are shown, and none with that weathering of the surface and roughness of chipping characteristic of the rude implements found in New Jersey, more especially in the valley of the Delaware.

Two specimens of a stone implement are shown which are believed to have been used in the cultivation of Indian corn. They certainly bear considerable resemblance to an ordinary plowshare, and doubtless could be used, if attached to a wooden handle, as a rude hand-plow, in light, sandy soils. The specimens bear marks of use upon them, and being found, as I am informed, in mounds, associated with undoubted relics, must be considered to be such, even though the conjecture as to their